(b) Aircraft not in operational use are sometimes used for non-operational roles like training role for air defence units. »

(c) The gap created by phasing out of the fighter aircraft is filled by induction of new aircraft taking into consideration the required force mix.

Improvement in surveillance capability

4803. SHRI RUMANDLARAMACHANDRAYYA:

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRASEKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether one immediate lesson which the Indian armed forces can draw from the US attack is the need to bolster their rather small inventory of intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance platforms;

(b) if so, whether with electronic and signal intelligence one can know where exactly to deliver the crippling blows on the enemy's command and control structure,

(c) whether Government have accepted the armed forces requirements of improving the surveillance;

(d) if so, whether any concrete measures in this regard have been worked out; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) The requirements of the Armed Forces are reviewed for improving the surveillance and related capabilities on a continuous basis keeping in view the threat perceptions and the prevailing strategic environment as also emerging technologies. It is not in the interest of national security to disclose further details.

VIP Aircrafts

4804. SHRIMATIBIMBA RAIKAR : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has finalised plans to acquire Air Force-I type aircrafts for its VIP entourage of President/PM and the Deputy Prime Minister for visits abroad;

(b) whether these aircrafts would ruve State-of-the-art anti-missile and advance communication systems; and

(c) the estimated cost of these aircrafts ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The Government is planning to procure new aircraft for primarily meeting the domestic travel needs of the WTPs and other dignitaries. These aircraft would meet our requirements and are not based on Air Force-I type of aircraft used by the United States Government.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The cost of the aircraft would be known only after fmalization of negotiations with the vendor.

Fulfilment of assurance to widows of Kargil Martyrs

†4805. SHRIBALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Shrimati Lai ita Devi widow of Shri Lalrambach Rai, a Kargil Martyr of village Bajitpur, district Vaishali, Bihar is still awaiting fulfilment of the promise made to her regarding allotment of agricultural land, plot for a house and petrol pump;

(b) the number of such other widows of Kargil Martyrs who are still running from pillar to post to get the benefits due to them; and

(c) by when the waiting widows of Kargil Martyrs will be paid their compensation alongwith full details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Besides pensionary benefits, Smt. Lalita Devi has been paid *ex-gratia* amount of Rs. 10 lakhs by the Central Government. She has also been paid Rs. 3.75 lakhs from Army Group Insurance, Rs. 5.00 lakhs for a dwelling unit and Rs. 2.00 lakhs for children's education from National Defence Fund.

The State Government has also paid an *ex-gratia* amount of Rs. 10 lakhs and provided employment to Smt. Lalita Devi. State Government is however, not having any policy for allotment of agricultural land to the dependents of Kargil Martyrs.

Smt. Lalita has already been issued the Letter of Intent by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the allotment of a Retail Outlet. Land required for commissioning of the Retail Outlet is to be made available by the State Government who have been requested to expendite the matter.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.